

Testimony of Scott Dombrowski, Campaign Coordinator

UConnPIRG

In support of

Proposed Senate Bill No. 67

An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill

First off, I would like to thank the Environment Committee, and Chairs Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Linda Gentile for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of Senate Bill 67, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

My name is Scott Dombrowski and I am a student at the University of Connecticut, where I am campaign coordinator of ConnPIRG's effort to update the Bottle Bill.

This Bill makes sense to me because the current legislation has been a successful program for our state. It definitely gives people a greater incentive to recycle, which is important because it will benefit our environment. We have many outstanding state parks and I take great pride in them; whenever I see a piece of litter in a place like Hopeville or Pachuag, I am reminded that there are still steps we need to take in order to protect the world we live in.

This update is critical because it covers types of drinks that are increasing in popularity. I feel that my generation, in particular, is consuming these beverages more than people realize. Most of the drinks sold in the Student Union at UConn, for example, are not covered by the current five-cent deposit. These types of beverages simply did not exist when the original Bottle Bill was passed. Therefore, an update would be timely and would immediately promote recycling of these bottles.

As a student at UConn, I went around collecting petitions in support of this bill. This allowed me to talk to many people about this issue and there is definitely overwhelming support. Constituents agree that this update makes sense. Those that turn in bottles to collect the deposit find the current system annoying because there are so many types that do not have it. The current beverage market calls for better legislation. It will increase recycling in Connecticut, eliminating many pieces of plastic from our environment.

I hope the Environment Committee will strengthen Senate Bill 67 and pass it on to the Connecticut General Assembly. This will make our world a better place.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.